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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,873	09/30/2003	Sung-Bae Lee	SEC.1084	2344
20987	7590	12/20/2004	EXAMINER	
VOLENTINE FRANCOS, & WHITT PLLC ONE FREEDOM SQUARE 11951 FREEDOM DRIVE SUITE 1260 RESTON, VA 20190			ESTRADA, MICHELLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2823	

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,873

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Michelle Estrada

Art Unit

2823

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-20 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 21 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-16, 22, 23 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/30/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of the second species (claims 1-16 and 21-25) in the reply filed on 11/30/04 is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 9/30/03 have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okada et al. (6,534,397).

With respect to claim 1, Okada et al. disclose forming an insulation film (13/14/15) on a substrate (11); forming a photoresist pattern (18) on the insulation film (Col. 10, lines 35-40); performing a first etching process (Fig. 2F) comprising etching the insulation film using the photoresist pattern as a mask to form an initial trench (20) in the

Art Unit: 2823

insulation film (Col. 10, lines 44-50); and subsequently performing a second etching process that is distinct from said first etching process, said second etching process comprising etching the insulation film in which the initial trench (20) has already been formed to thereby enlarge the initial trench (Col. 11, lines 39-45).

With respect to claim 2, Okada et al. disclose further comprising removing the photoresist pattern after the initial trench is formed and prior to the second etching process (Col. 11, lines 3-10).

With respect to claim 3, Okada et al. disclose wherein said enlarging the initial trench comprises increasing a width of the initial trench while maintaining a depth of the initial trench (See Fig. 2H and 2I).

With respect to claim 4, Okada et al. disclose wherein said forming of the insulation film comprises forming one of an oxide and a fluoride film on the substrate (Col. 3, lines 5-6).

With respect to claim 21, Okada et al. disclose forming an insulation film (13/14/15) on a substrate (11); forming a photoresist pattern (18) on the insulation film (Col. 10, lines 35-40); performing a first etching process (Fig. 2F) comprising etching the insulation film using the photoresist pattern as a mask to form an initial trench (20) in the insulation film (Col. 10, lines 44-50); and subsequently performing a second etching process that is distinct from said first etching process, said second etching process comprising etching the insulation film in which the initial trench (20) has already been formed to thereby enlarge the initial trench (Col. 11, lines 39-45); and depositing a

Art Unit: 2823

conductive material in the enlarged trench to form a conductive pattern (26) in the insulation film (Col. 11, line 63-Col. 12, line 21).

With respect to claim 24, Okada et al. disclose wherein said material deposited in the enlarged trench comprises copper (Col. 11, line 65).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-16, 22, 23 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: there is no disclosure in the prior art of the limitations recited in claims 5-16, 22, 23 and 25.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Estrada whose telephone number is 571-272-1858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

Art Unit: 2823

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 571-272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michelle Estrada
Examiner
Art Unit 2823

ME
December 16, 2004